

Washington State Library

The people's library since 1853

The State Library is the State's equivalent to the Library of Congress. It serves as a voice for libraries in Washington State.

What does the State Library do for **Libraries? The State Library:**

- **Administers \$3 million in federal funds** for training, grants, and services to libraries of all types in the state.
- Supports the purchase of materials for the **blind and vision-impaired**, and for people in **mental hospitals and prisons**. This reduces costs for local libraries that might otherwise have to provide more specialized services
- Saves local public and school libraries over **\$8 million dollars** per year. The State Library coordinates statewide joint purchasing agreements for **online, full-text access** to over 2000 magazines.
- Offers **training for local librarians** on topics such as: information technology, implications of recent brain research for children's programs, methods of assisting citizens to find and evaluate information, and the development of services for culturally diverse populations.
- Helps public libraries to obtain **discounts on telecommunication and Internet costs**.
- Helps public libraries receive **high-speed Internet connections** through its K-20 initiative. High-speed connections allow faster, more powerful searching of databases and the Internet.
- Supports local libraries by answering reference questions and supplying materials in the area of **Washington government and history**.
- **Coordinates statewide efforts** in areas like early childhood learning, information literacy and building digital library collections.

Under the Governor's proposed budget:

- **Local libraries lose access** to specialized collections.
- State funds are cut, jeopardizing **federal funding** because of maintenance of effort requirements.
- **Libraries lose representation** on projects like the **K-20 network**.
- Libraries lose **assistance** in technical planning and applying for **e-rate discounts**.